

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-46 were pending in the instant application. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 2, 4-7, and 26 for clarity, to address the Examiner's concerns, and to eliminate improper multiple dependencies. In that regard, new claim 48, incorporating subject matter removed from claim 7, and new claim 49, incorporating subject matter of claim 26, also have been added. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. The Specification has been amended to correct typographical errors introduced into the specification with the last amendment. The present Amendment introduces no new matter, and thus, its entry is requested. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 2, 4-7, 26, 45-46, and 48-49 will be pending.

Withdrawal of previous rejections

The Examiner withdrew the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

In response, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the withdrawal of these rejections.

Examiner's Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-46 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner stated that claims 2, 4-7, 26 and 45-46 recite the limitation "amino acid sequences VGG (SEQ. ID NO: 46), VLGS (SEQ. ID NO: 47), ATG (SEQ. ID NO: 48), VSG (SEQ. ID NO: 49), DSG (SEQ. ID NO: 50), VVSG (SEQ. ID NO. 51),

ALAG (SEQ. ID NO: 52), APSG (SEQ. ID NO: 53) and VGR SEQ. ID NO: 54),” in lines 9-12 of claim 2. The Examiner then asserted that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Specifically, the Examiner pointed to page 7 of the specification, stating that it discloses that SEQ ID NO: 46 is YCL VGG SARQLTF, that SEQ. ID NO: 49 is YCL VLSG SARQLTF, that SEQ ID NO: 50 is YCL DSG SARQLTF, that SEQ. ID NO: 51 is YCL VVSG SARQLTF, that SEQ. ID NO: 52 is YCL ALAG SARQLTF, that SEQ. ID NO: 54 is YCL APSG SARQLTF, and that SEQ. ID NO: 53 is YCL VGR SARQLTF. The Examiner then concluded that the disclosed and recited sequences for each SEQ. ID NO: tag do not match.


In response, Applicant believes that claim 2, as amended, fully addresses the Examiner's concerns and overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Examiner's Objection

The Examiner objected to claim 2 because of the following informalities: in line 11 of claim 2 there was no parenthesis after “VGR” and before “SEQ. ID NO:”. Also, in line 11 of the same claim, the phrase “ID NO. 51” was inconsistent with the punctuation of the other SEQ ID tags in the claim which recited, for example, “ID NO: 52.” The Examiner required appropriate correction.

In response, Applicant asserts that the amendments to claim 2 fully overcome the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to claim 2.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims satisfy the requirements of the patent statutes and fully address the Examiner's concerns as set forth in the March 6, 2003 Final Office Action. Reconsideration of the instant application and early notice of allowance are requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it is deemed to expedite allowance of the application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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